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World's First INS

Is 5-Pound Note Extinct?

Medals of Intellectuals

1977 UIA Medal

Israel Banknote Dates

How They Became Collectors

Club News and Columns

Money of the Final Solution



Published by the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION



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AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 499, FRESH MEADOWS STATION, FLUSHING, NEW YORK 11365

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF A.I.N.A.

The AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a cultural and educational organization dedicated to the study and collection of the numismatic aspects of Israel's coinage, past and present. It is a democratically organized, membership oriented group, chartered as a non-profit association under the laws of the State of New York.

As an educational organization, the primary responsibility is the development of programs, publications, meetings and other activities which will bring news, history, technical, social and related backgrounds to the study of numismatics. Membership is open to all men of goodwill and to clubs who share the common goals of the Association. Membership on the Board of Directors is by vote of the membership and candidates for the Board are limited to individuals whose primary vocation is not numismatic-related business.

The Association is the publisher of *The Shekel*, a six times a year journal and news magazine prepared for the enlightenment and education of the membership. It neither solicits or accepts advertising, paid or unpaid. Its views are the views and opinions of the writers and the pages and columns are open to all who submit material deemed by the editors to be of interest to the members.

The Association sponsors such major cultural/social/numismatic events as an annual Study Tour to Israel, national and regional conventions and such other activities and enterprises which will benefit the members. Dues are paid annually at \$8.00 per year; life memberships are offered to all at \$125.00 per year.

Your interest and participation will be welcomed by any of the affiliated clubs or as a general member of the Association.

THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK . . .

This issue is one of which we are especially very proud: it has more writers, more novel ideas, more news of varied areas of numismatic interest than ever before. NEW! With issue, we announce two new 1978 Convention Awards, both of which will be of interest to the journalists among us. These are my fellow editors who create the various club newsletters and the numbers of others who contribute periodically to the pages of *The Shekel*. With this issue we also are pleased to announce a new series of articles . . . all about YOU. We are asking our writers to submit brief biographies of some of AINA's more active numismatists. If you have a friend you'd like to honor, send in an eight or ten paragraph story of how this person contributes to the pleasures and education of the rest of us. Remember: we only publish six times a year. That's six biographies between now and Next Summer. — G.G.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Morris Bram



In the ten year history of the American Israel Numismatic Association, there has never been other than cordial relationships of friends and numismatists, of supporters for the study of Israel's culture as expressed through her coinage past and present, and of friends of the organization without whose support this international association could not have reached its important position in the numismatic world.

We are keeping the forward-looking momentum by expanding our efforts to visit with clubs everywhere, bringing news of Association activities and first-hand information on all aspects of the Israel collector's varied interests. At this very moment I am planning the Fall and Winter visiting schedule and expect to visit half or more of all clubs. To bring fresh viewpoints and a new face, I am asking a number of members of the Board of Directors to make themselves available so that at any one meeting I will be privileged to introduce to you one or another of the elected Board members. For many of them, visiting a distant club will be a new experience though most, of course, are well known to the clubs in the areas where they reside.

If you are a club officer and would like me to put you in the itinerary, please write to me at once so I can put your club on the schedule too.

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Stack's, one of America's most prestigious coin houses as the *Official Convention Auctioneer* for the May, 1978 Greater New York Coin Convention held in conjunction with the convention of the American Israel Numismatic Association. Stack's auctions, Stack's midtown New York retail center and Stack's reputation bring honor to our

continuing efforts to provide convention guests with a treasurehouse of numismatic excitement during the bustling days of the convention's activities. In the coming months we'll be making more BIG NEWS about the convention which will be held at the New York Sheraton Hotel on Seventh Avenue. (*Why don't you plan NOW to spend that weekend with us in New York?*)

Speaking of the Convention, I'd like to share with you at this time one of the further early convention *News Items*. For the first time in AINA history, a convention General Chairman has been appointed who is from Connecticut: the very popular *Fred Roganson*.

He has been active in the building of the INS of Connecticut and is a regular attendee on the AINA Study Tours to Israel. For years he has been the host of the Convention Study Tour Reunions, showing his hundreds of personal trip slides to an ever-delighted audience. It will be great to have him head the convention team.

And speaking of the Israel Study Tours, I must tell you how excited we are with the advance planning for the 1978 trip to Israel (Mar. 16-30). Some very NEW ideas: like departure on a Thursday evening so you'll have the quiet first Sabbath to get over the weariness of the air trip. We're going to visit an American Kibbutz . . . enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee and, be guests at an Israeli Purim Party. You'll hear more in *The Shekel* and by mail. To apply now, send \$100 per person as an advance registration to AINA.

See you soon—at YOUR club meeting.

Shalom,
Morris Bram
President

HOW THE FIRST ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY IN THE WORLD WAS FORMED

By Arie Kindler
Kadman Numismatic Museum
Tel Aviv, Israel

The history of what was to become the Israel Numismatic Society may be traced to a beginning on May 10, 1945, with the organizational meeting of what was called the "Numismatic section of the Tel Aviv Circle of Amateurs of Antiquities."

Attending this historic meeting were the men now recognized as the founder members of the INS, architect David Nudelmänn, medical doctor Joseph Meyshan, fellow architects Hanan Pavel and David Kissin, ancient glass student Frederic Neuburg, Leo Kadman, and Arie Kindler.

Up to this point, Palestine had no agency promoting contacts between individual collectors, who only met occasionally in antiquities dealers' shops as they sought additions to their collections.

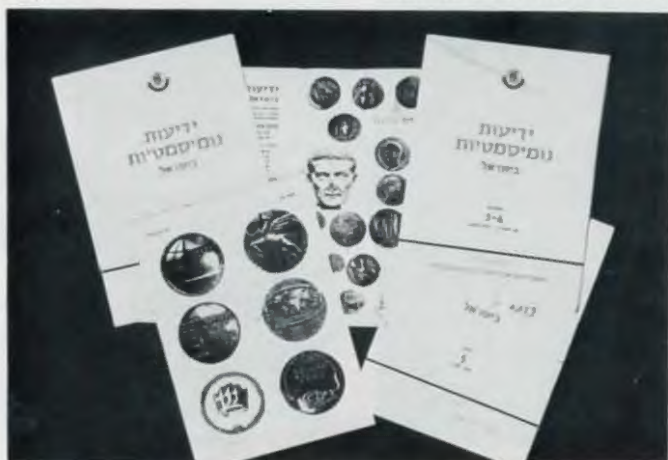
Such was the case with Nudelmänn and Kindler, who first met as far back as 1939, visiting with each other frequently to discuss numismatics and show their most recent buys.

The real impetus for creation of the "Numismatic Section" was the collective purchase, arranged by Nudelmänn, of the entire stock of Tel Aviv's only major coin dealer, a Mr. Isersky. This numismatic stock was divided up between Nudelmänn, Pavel, Kissin and Kadman.

At this time, the emphasis in Palestine was the ancient coinage of Judaea and her various rulers, both Jewish and foreign. Indeed today in Israel, "numismatics" means ancient coinage exclusively to most INS members.

At the organizational meeting, it was decided to hold regular meetings with informative lectures and discussions; to exhibit coins and attempt identification of unknown types; to create a significant numismatic library; and to hold annual numismatic conventions.

Membership was set at half a Palestine pound, or 500 mils, some \$2.40 in U.S. equivalent funds. Leo Kadman put his own home at the Numismatic Section's



Israel's numismatic scholars created learned literature.

disposal, housing the growing library as well. His address became the mailing address of the new body.

Architect Nudelmann, initiator of the meeting, was elected first chairman of the Numismatic Section. Late in 1947, the members decided to abandon the tie to the Amateurs of Antiquities and establish an independent numismatic society, the INS. At about the same time, the United Nations voted for the partition of Palestine and the creation of a Jewish state.

Named to the board of the new society were Prof. E. L. Sukenik, discoverer of the Dead Sea Scrolls and father of Masada's excavator Yigal Yadin, and his numismatic assistant, Mrs. Stella Ben-Dor.

Also coming aboard were numismatic author A. Reifenberg of Tel Aviv; Director M. Narkiss of Jerusalem's Bezalel Museum; as well as old line members of the predecessor organization, Kadman, Rosin, Pavel and Meysan.



Ancient Jewish coins provide designs for today's coinage.

Many of the members were actually new to numismatics, with limited collecting experience and limited acquaintance with systematic research in the complex field of ancient coins. Here Nudelmann proved a tower of strength, as he had had extensive numismatic experience in his former country, Czechoslovakia.

The INS' first great loss followed soon after the proclamation of the State of Israel in May 1948. In the early months of Arab invasion and control of the air, Nudelmann was killed during one of the raids on Tel Aviv by the Egyptian air force in the state's first summer of existence.

Reifenberg, who had recently published an up-to-date catalog of *Ancient Jewish Coins*, succeeded as INS chairman. The real driving force behind all INS activities was Leo Kadman, officially the society's secretary.

Guiding the Government

During the crucial formative years of Israel's independence, the INS acted as a welcome consulting body to the government in matters affecting numismatics. Kadman and Pavel were nominated as the group's official representatives, and had decisive roles in naming the new currency and in determining its designs.

The principle was the adoption in modern style of symbols from ancient Jewish coins. These have included the harp, wheat ears, pomegranates, seven-frond palm tree, amphora, anchor and other devices on both the prutot and agorot coinages.

The INS members had input on Israel's earliest stamps as well, advising the reproduction of Jewish coins as the basic designs for the first series of Israeli stamps, the famed *Doar Ivri* issues and those immediately after this pioneer set.

The INS library grew lustily, and members made good use of its resources; it was named the "David Nudelmann Numismatic Library" in memory of the first chairman, killed in the air raid in 1948.

The pace of activity intensified, with lectures at the monthly meetings held in the Kadman home featuring guest lecturers from Jerusalem, including Reifenberg, Narkiss and Ben-Dor.

Both lecturer and audience profited from these presentations, as the lively discussion sessions which followed each of the eight annual lecture meetings inspired many a researcher to examine new aspects of his specialty.

As a direct result of the lectures, INS members often found themselves specializing in particular historical or geographical areas. Thus, Dr. J. Meyshan specialized in the ancient Herodian coinage; Arie Kindler in the Hasmonean coins and city coins of Akko-Ptolemais and Tiberias; with the hard-working Kadman zeroing in on the city-coinage of Aelia Capitolina and Caesarea, as well as the coins of the Year Four of the Jewish Revolt.

Yeoman work was performed on the tetradrachms of Ashkelon and their purchasing power at the time of issue by D. Kissin; Parthian and Sassanian coins became Dr. E. W. Klimowsky's preserve.

Coinage of the desert-dwelling Nabatean traders interested member Mrs. Cohen; while Dr. H. Hamburger devoted years of study to the tiny bronze minimae he himself discovered in the sand dunes of the ancient port of Caesarea.

These specialists were able to pool their knowledge in a number of team efforts of the INS, which resulted in lively meetings and discussions, as well as a number of special monographs devoted to Palestine's ancient numismatics.

April 1950 saw another collective coin buy, this time by seven INS members under the auspices of Prof. Reifenberg. This time, the coins comprised the stock of the late Jerusalem coin dealer Schwarz, some 4,000 pieces, mostly ancient Jewish bronze *perutoth*, or *dilepta*.

The balance of this massive purchase were silver and bronze Jewish and Palestine city coins; the whole lot bringing 520 Israel pounds, some \$1,456 at that time. Dividing this purchase was the assignment of Arie Kindler, who came to understand King Solomon's problems in the process.

After the first years of activity and accumulation of experience, the society felt itself mature enough to handle its first convention, March 30-31, 1951. Convening in Haifa, the INS members numbered more than 70, with the con-



Today the author of this memoir is Director of the Kadman Numismatic Museum, Tel Aviv.

vention theme "Coins of the Jews" setting the pace of the highly successful gathering.

Tel Aviv was the site of the second convention, May 16-17, 1952, the theme "Palestinian City Coins." The 1953 convention was held under the theme "Two Thousand Years of Mint Activity in Jerusalem." Closing each of these conventions was the general meetings of the society and the election of officers and directors.

Overseas involvement and recognition of the Israel group included participation by Kadman and member B. Kanael in the 1953 International Numismatic Congress in Paris, France, where both men presented research papers dealing with Israel's ancient coinages.

Chairman Reifenberg died on Aug. 27, 1953, at the age of 54. The INS board then elected Kadman as the third chairman of the organization, with Kindler as secretary.

Publications Issued

The following year was the beginning of INS publications with the series "Numismatic Studies and Researches," Volume 1, dealing with recent studies and discoveries in the field of ancient Jewish and Syrian coins.

Dedicated to the memory of the late Prof. Reifenberg, this first volume included contributions by the deceased chairman himself, and by Kadman, Kindler, Meyshan, Hamburger, Klimowsky, Avigad and Salzman-Cassuto.

By this time in its development, INS had received recognition from the Israel government's Department of An-

tiquities, an agency of great power in this archeology-minded nation. The department sought the numismatic counsel of INS increasingly often in these busy years.

Kibbutz Collections

During the 1950s, it seemed that every Israeli kibbutz was forming collections for study by the collective farms' members and their children. These too applied to INS for help in identifying and attributing their coin finds.

Already in these formative years, INS was the worldwide correspondence with numismatic societies abroad, with learned societies and institutions such as universities and museums, libraries and individual researchers and collectors.

Since then, strong links were to be established with such important agencies as the American Israel Numismatic Association, whose annual study tours make the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Tel Aviv, named for INS' pioneer leader, a regular feature of the tour.

For the convenience of the far-flung membership, branches of the society were organized in the port city of Haifa and in Jerusalem, Israel's capital.

In any organization, the pioneer years become invested with a nostalgia that has no equal. Warm memories of hard work, obstacles overcome and the fellowship of a small but determined band of co-workers make such years unique.

One such unique moment, treasured by those honored to be present, was the reception in 1955 of the Israel Numismatic society board of directors by Israel's second President, the late Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, pioneer and statesman of the Jewish nation.

64,000 I£25 SILVER COINS MINTED: 37,000 UNCIRCULATED, 27,000 PROOF

Final mintage for the I£25 silver coins of Israel dated 1977, marking the 29th anniversary of Independence, will be about 64,000, Yitzhak Avni, director-general of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp., indicated recently.

Avni indicates orders were received for 37,000 Uncirculated coins and 27,000 Proof pieces.

"Adjustments may increase each variety by a few hundred; however, the above round figures are final," Avni said.

The coins are of .500 silver, measure 34 millimeters in diameter and weight 20 grams each.

NINETEENTH CENTURY MEDALS OF JEWISH SCIENTISTS AND INTELLECTUALS

By Eli Semmelman, Haifa



RABBI DR. HENRI LOEB

This medal in bronze was minted to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Dr. Henri Loeb as Chief Rabbi of Belgium, 1834-1859. He served to 1866.

The medal was designed by Leopold Wiener, a member of the famous Wiener family who were the greatest medalists of their time.

Obverse: the bust of Dr. Loeb. Reverse: In French: 25th Anniversary of the Grand Rabbi of Belgium; the date: 1834-1859. In Hebrew:

The law of truth is in his mouth, And unrighteousness was not found in his lips; He walks with us in peace and uprightness, And many he turned away from iniquity.



ITZCHAK ILITCH LEVITAN,
RUSSIAN PAINTER,
(1860-1900)

Itzhak Ilitch Levitan was born in Kiberty (Lithuania) in 1860, he died in 1900 in Moscow, he moved in his childhood to Moscow with his family.

At the age of 15, he started to study the art of painting at the Academy of Art in that city with famous teachers.

When he finished his studies in 1884, he attached himself to a group of artists called "The Wanderers," a group of artists of realistic outlook who exhibited their work in wandering exhibitions.

Later he became a member of another artistic flow, the "artistic world". His work was influenced by the paintings of the French artists, while visiting Paris in 1884. From 1896 till his death of tuberculosis, he taught the subject of landscape painting in the Academy of Art in Moscow.

Levitan was one of the greatest landscape painters of Russia. The medal was minted in Soviet Russia to commemorate 100 years of the birth of the artist. The die cutter was Shklovsky.



"CHACHAM" ISSAC BERNAYS (1792-1849)

This medal is in bronze in bad condition. I have heard this medal also was struck in silver. The medal was issued in 1847 to commemorate 25 years of Rabbi Bernays being *Chacham* of the Hamburg Orthodox Congregation.

I wonder why he was called *Chacham*? Maybe to proclaim his wisdom and greatness since in Hebrew *Chacham* is wise.

Chacham Bernays was born in Mainz, Germany in 1792; he died in Hamburg in 1849. He was one of the moulders of Orthodox Judaism in Germany in the 19th century. He studied at the University of Wirtzburg and in the Yeshiva of Rabbi Bing. Because of the strengthening of Reform Judaism and the striving of the Orthodox community of Hamburg to restrain the spread of this movement, the office of Chief Rabbi of Hamburg was offered to Rabbi Bernays in 1821.

Bernays' concept was a "Modern Orthodoxy" which was later developed by his pupil Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsh. His belief was in the international ideal of humanity and the important historical role in the world which Judaism plays. In fulfilling this ideal, he came to the conclusion that the Jewish law should be explained through science which is shared by all nations, and to preserve the Jewish religious precepts for the welfare of humanity. Bernays forbade the use of the reform prayer book, stating "It is a prayer

book but not a Jewish prayer book". He said Israel's eternity was dependent on the national assignment of the Jewish people and that cessation of the belief in the Messiah by Reform Judaism looked to him as undermining the existence of the Jewish People.

The medal is shown actual size. *One side of the medal:* In German: presented by many of his adherents to the 25 years jubilee of his task as Rabbi of Hamburg, presented to Mr. Issac Bernays, spiritual leader of the German Israel Community in Hamburg.

On the side, the name of the minter: Nathan Brothers F.; below, the Jewish date, 5607 a.m.

Other side of the medal, in Hebrew: To our Master Teacher and Rabbi the Chacham of the Holy Congregation of the Ashkenasim in Hamburg.

*You made us hear the splendor of your words,
The righteousness of your deeds our eyes beheld,
You acquainted us with the delight of our Torah,
We heard your voice – our heart rejoiced.*

*In peace and honesty you accomplished greatness,
Your community's stronghold and support were you,
You strengthened the Torah, uncovered its treasures,
And led us in the ways of our forefathers.*

*You chastised many, you also taught faith,
Hence your memory in our hearts shall be kept,
Accept now the feelings of our soul as a gift,
We have seen light through you,
and found attainment.*

THE DATES OF ISSUE OF ISRAEL'S BANKNOTES

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa.

The following particulars of the dates of issue of Israel's banknotes are the most detailed which could be traced. I am very grateful to the *Bank of Israel* for providing a number of dates. In each case the source of the information is mentioned. (Nos. = serial numbers)

Anglo-Palestine Bank Notes.

These notes were issued on 17 August 1948. The story was told in *The Shekel*, Vol. VIII No. 3 (Fall 1975), pp. 20/21.

Bank Leumi LeIsrael Notes.

Issued on 9 June 1952 (*Davar* newspaper of 9 June 1952).

Bank of Israel Notes.

First Series - 1955.

- 500 pruta 4 August 1955 (*Davar* of 4 August 1955)
- LI. 1 October 1955 (*Bank of Israel*), between 23 and 26
- LI. 5 October 1955 (*Davar*, of 27 October 1955).
- LI. 10 red Nos. 4 August 1955 (*Davar* of 4 August 1955)
black Nos. June 1958 (*Bank of Israel*)
- LI. 50 black Nos. September 1957 (*Bank of Israel*), the regulation published in the *Official Gazette* is dated 9 September 1957.
red Nos. May 1960 (*Bank of Israel*)

Second Series - 1958/60.

- LI. ½ 18 October 1959 (*Davar* of 15 October 1959).
- LI. 1 black Nos. 18 October 1959 (*Davar* as before)
red Nos. June 1964 (*Bank of Israel*)
brown Nos. August 1964 (*Bank of Israel*)
- LI. 5 18 October 1959 (*Davar* of 15 October 1959).
- LI. 10 black Nos. 18 October 1959 (*Davar* of 15 October 1959)
red Nos. January 1967 (*Bank of Israel*)

blue Nos. April 1967 (*Bank of Israel*)

brown Nos. September 1969 (*Bank of Israel*)

LI. 50 black Nos. 9 September 1960 (Annual report of the *Bank of Israel*)

red Nos. February 1965 (*Bank of Israel*)

blue Nos. December 1966 (*Bank of Israel*)

green Nos. May 1967 (*Bank of Israel*)

brown Nos. September 1969 (*Bank of Israel*)

Third Series - 1968.

- LI. 5 black Nos. 13 January 1972 (Annual report of the *Bank of Israel*)
carmine Nos. March 1974 (*Bank of Israel*)
- LI. 10 black and blue Nos. 6 August 1970 (*Bank of Israel*)
green Nos. March 1971 (*Bank of Israel*)
- LI. 50 black Nos. 13 January 1972 (Annual report of the *Bank of Israel*)
Blue Nos. October 1976 (*Bank of Israel*)
- LI. 100 Black Nos. with prefix. 27 February 1969 (*Jerusalem Post* of 27 February 1969)
Red Nos. March 1971 (*Bank of Israel*)
Black Nos. without prefix. February 1973 (*Bank of Israel*)
Brown Nos. March 1974 (*Bank of Israel*).

Fourth Series - 1973.

- LI. 5. 11 January 1976.
- LI. 10. 30 January 1975.
- LI. 50. (not yet issued).
- LI. 100. 14 March 1975.
- LI. 500. (issued May 1977)

OKLAHOMANS HONOR JAKE B. SURECK

Jake B. Sureck, popular Oklahoma City numismatist and a longtime AINA member has been awarded the first honorary life membership in the Oklahoma Numismatic Association.

The life membership was presented in recognition of Sureck's outstanding efforts, beginning in 1971, toward organizing the ONA.

A member of the American Numismatic Association for some 42 years, the University of Oklahoma graduate has served that organization in numerous capacities over the years, and received the ANA Medal of Merit in 1969 for his contributions to the association.

His diversified numismatic interests are reflected in the organizations in which he holds membership, including

the Society of Paper Money Collectors, Token and Medal Society, Canadian Numismatic Association, Organization of International Numismatists, American Israel Numismatic Association, Civil War Token Society, Texas Numismatic Association, and California State Numismatic Association.

Rounding out the list of Sureck's numismatic achievements are an appointment to the United States Assay Commission by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1967, and two nominations for the ANA board of governors, in 1969 and 1971.

He has operated his own certified public accounting firm in the Oklahoma City area for many years.

TWO NEW ANNUAL AWARDS PLANNED FOR 1978 AINA CONVENTION

Two new awards for excellence in serving the numismatic educational needs of AINA's memberships have been announced for the 1978 AINA Convention.

The first award, for the *Best Club Newsletter* will be awarded by the Editorial Board of AINA to a club Editor in recognition of the most difficult task of bringing out club news and a printed monthly reflection of the general numismatic interests of the club membership. The Editorial Board will review all club newsletters during the January - December 1977 calendar year and announce a suitable award to honor the Editor during the ceremonies at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Present editors are urged to submit January-to-July newsletters and future issues to become a candidate for the prize.

The second award, for the *Best Shekel Feature*, will also be awarded by *The Shekel* Editorial Board. The Board will review all issues of *The Shekel* from January - December, 1977 and select a numismatic feature prepared by a non-professional writer. The author of the winning article will be honored with for a special award to be made at the Convention Banquet.

The prizes will be awarded annually under present plans and will serve to honor all whose efforts add a rich depth to the club members and the readers of *The Shekel* through their personal diligence and effort.

ISRAEL FIVE-POUND NOTE FACING EXTINCTION?

Within two years, the Bank of Israel will replace all the existing five-pound bank notes with coins, according to a report from Jerusalem.

Coin World, however could not confirm this in New York during the recent American Israel Numismatic Association's Greater New York Coin Convention.

Twenty years ago, five pound notes accounted for 24 percent of all cash in circulation.

With devaluation, however, they now make up less than one percent of total cash circulation, according to reports.

The Bank of Israel has been quoted in Israeli newspapers as indicating there are about 10 million five-pound notes in circulation. Reports say they will remain legal tender, but will be withdrawn gradually as they wear out.

Gold Price Boom?

Mordechai Zvi, financial and numismatic editor of the Israeli newspaper, *Ha'aretz*, told *Coin World* he predicted an upward spiral in the price of gold.

Zvi, one of Israel's leading economists, credits inflation, a fluctuating economic supply and demand, and a Soviet takeover of both gold and oil for his prediction.

"I see gold at \$250 an ounce in two or three years," he said.

Gold has rebounded 45 percent from its 1976 low to a recent price of \$140-\$149 an ounce. Other gold bugs have predicted a \$200 an ounce price later this year or early in 1978.

Gold sales by the International Monetary Fund haven't affected the rising gold price; there has been a doubling of industrial gold usage since 1974; Arab oil money has been flowing into gold, and inflation fears cause an uneasiness about paper currencies, he said.



Present 5-Pound Notes

Zvi, in an address before the AINA luncheon at the convention described the effect of recent changes in world stabilization of currencies which have rocked, not only the value of Israel's currencies, but he related how, for the first time in his life, while traveling he found in France that he could not use U.S. dollars.

The audience reacted audibly to this statement that U.S. dollars were not accepted; he used this example as a dramatization of what was happening around the world, that the most basic currency in the world was suddenly no longer acceptable in certain places.

Zvi also reported upon the growth of collecting in Israel. In the 1960's there were under 10,000 collectors in that country; now there are 90,000 subscribers and around the world there are 140,000 subscribers of Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. numismatic programs.

This demonstrates, Zvi said, that Israeli collectors are the most ardent collectors of Israeli coins, just as the U.S. collectors are the largest purchasers of U.S. coins and medals.

JUDAEN JOTTINGS

by Mel Wacks, NLG

The Anchor and "Sun-Wheel" Coin Symbols of Alexander Jannaeus



*Anchor/Star coin
type of Italy
(c. 3rd Century BC).*



The anchor/sun-wheel coin type is unique to the Hasmonean Alexander Jannaeus (103-76 BC). Neither symbol is particularly "Jewish" . . . the anchor was borrowed from Seleucid Syrian coins, such as the bronze struck in Jerusalem by Antiochus VII in 132/1 BC; the source of the so-called "sun-wheel" is not so obvious.

This "sun-wheel" may have from six to eight spokes (or rays) and comes in two major varieties—one with an outer rim and letters between the rays (*Wacks 15*), and the other with a unique Square (e.g. modern) Hebrew inscription surrounding the rays (*Wacks 16*). Since these two variations obviously are meant to represent the same symbol, a wheel is ruled out by the lack of a rim on the latter type. Thus we are left with the choice of either a sun-symbol or a star.

Messrs. Thomas and Garner advanced the sun-symbol theory in the late 19th Century, and were supported by Madden.



*Anchor/"Sun-Wheel"
coin of Alexander
Jannaeus (103-76 BC).
Ancient Hebrew
inscription between
rays.*

Arie Kindler has indicated that the origin of the star motif can be found in Seleucid Syrian coins, where it originally was associated with the cult of the Dioscuri. The Dioscuri, according to ancient myths, were the horse-tamer Castor and Polydeuces, master of the art of boxing. Zeus, in reward for their show of brotherly love, set them in the sky as the constellation Gemini — the morning and evening stars. Temples were established for their worship, and the Festival of the Dioscuri was celebrated at Rome with great splendor on the Ides of Quinctilis (July 15).



*Star on coin
of Herod the
Great (37 BC).*

Another possible Dioscuri star can be found on a Judaeen coin of Herod the Great (37-4 BC), *Wacks 28*.

Of course there is always the possibility that the star-like design was meant to be more decorative than symbolic. The technique of interspersing ancient Hebrew letters within a star can be found earlier on an embossed storage jar handle found at Ramat-Rahel, dating to the 4th Century BC; the inscription reads "Jerusalem."

The renegade but imaginative numismatist Wolf Wirgin published several 3rd Century BC Etruscan bronze coins that bear remarkable resemblances to both sides of Jannaeus' anchor/star types issued more than a century later. The

comparison of the letters within the star-rays is particularly uncanny. Wirgin writes, "The migration of symbols that is documented on the Etruscan and Jewish coins shows a knowledgeable relationship between the Jews and Romans at a very early time."

Somewhat later (c. 50 BC-70 AD), similar star designs are found engraved as decorations on ossuaries (burial boxes) found around Jerusalem.

The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion reveals that, "Like all sciences in ancient and medieval times astronomy was studied for its religious implications — but for the Jews there was never any question of star-worship; the stars as part of the heavenly host are themselves conceived as worshipping God." The Biblical prophesy, "there shall come a star out of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17), that influenced Simon Bar Kochba 200 years later, may have also inspired the Maccabean Alexander Jannaeus. So perhaps the Hasmonean coin star-symbol did have some religious connotation.

The inscription within the star's rays (Wacks 15) is **יְהוֹנָטָן מֶלֶךְ**, "Yehonatan Hamelech . . . Yehonatan the King." Thus we know that the Hasmonean king's Hebrew name was Jonathan. The Hebrew "Yannai" (Jannaeus) was the common abbreviated form of Jonathan. On the other side of the coin is a similar legend, but this time in Greek,

ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ ΑΛΕΞΑΝΔΡΟΥ (King Alexander). The Hebrew/Greek coexistence aptly signifies the Hellenization of the descendants of the Maccabees who had successfully fought off Greek influence just a few generations earlier. But the political realities of the time probably made this development inevitable.



Anchor on bronze coin struck in Jerusalem by Antiochus VII in 132/131 BC.

The anchor is "an allusion to Jannaeus' ambition to conquer the coastal cities of Palestine and develop the maritime trade of the young kingdom of Judea," writes J. Klausner in *The World History of the Jewish People*. First, Jannaeus' troops conquered Galilee and then they attacked the important Phoenician seaport of Akko-Ptolemais in order to give the Galilee an outlet to the Mediterranean, which in turn would mean added revenue for the Jewish State from export and import duties.

But the Jewish forces were defeated in Akko, when Ptolemy Lathyrus, who had been deposed from the Egyptian throne by his mother Cleopatra and had become ruler of Cyprus, came to the aid of the inhabitants. Ancient sources indicate that between 30,000 and 50,000 Jewish soldiers lost their lives when, according to Josephus, Ptolemy's men gave chase "until their swords became blunted with killing and their hands were utterly tired." Ptolemy drove through all of Judaea, and only the intercession by Cleopatra's own army (led by two Jewish-Egyptian generals) restored the Hasmonean dynasty. Cleopatra interfered because she feared being overthrown by her son should he conquer neighboring Judaea; she demanded a heavy tribute for Jannaeus in return for a Judaeo-Egyptian alliance.



Anchor/"Sun-Wheel" type of Jannaeus with unique "Modern" Hebrew inscription surrounding rays (78 BC).



Star above Temple on Tetradrachm of Bar Kochba (134/135 AD).

After an excursion into the Transjordan, Jannaeus again sought access to the sea, and this time he was successful, gaining Raphia, Anthedon, and finally the well fortified Gaza, all in the south.

Klausner sums up:

"Little by little all the cities in Palestine, which the gentiles had wrested from the Jews from the time of the destruction of the First Temple passed to the Hasmoneans. This turn of events brought about a tremendous change in the entire economic structure of Judaea: commerce – transit trade and maritime trade alike – now became one of the principal economic branches in Judaea alongside agriculture and crafts. In this way, small Judaea became a sea-trader after retrieving large coastal cities and a number of important ports which had previously been held by the Greeks or the Hellenized Philistines in the south and east. The Hasmonean rulers now began to collect import duties, which yielded substantial revenues, and a period of prosperity set in."

Thus the character of Judaea changed from that of a relatively small and isolated community to a nation of international significance.

The coin's anchor symbol may have been borrowed by the Jews from the



Storage jar handle with "Jerusalem" inscribed within a star (c. 4th Century BC).



The Dioscuri on a Roman Republic denarius (165-155 BC). Note two stars above.

Seleucids or others, but far from indicating dependence of Judaea on neighboring Greek states, it denoted a new force for independence.

FLASH BULLETIN

ISRAEL'S KADMAN MUSEUM LOOTED BY ROOF BURGLARS

TEL AVIV—Ancient coins worth I£750,000 (\$75,000-90,000 U.S.) were stolen in a daring nighttime break-in to the Kadman Numismatic Museum in the Ramat Aviv section of Tel-Aviv. The Museum is well-known to participants in Israel Study Tours sponsored by AINA.

The robbery in late July was made by the thieves who used a rope to climb over the roof, where they sawed off iron bars over an air duct in order to lower themselves into the main museum area.

Police who arrived on the scene found smashed exhibit cases, with valuable

Roman, Jewish, Phoenician, Japanese and Dutch gold and silver coins missing. Museum officials explained that all entrances to the building are guarded by burglar alarms. The air duct through which the burglars made their entrance was guarded only by the iron bars.

It is believed at this time that the valuable U.S. gold coin type set donated to the Kadman Museum by Irving Moskowitz of Detroit, Mich. was not involved in the robbery since this is usually protected in the museum's vault.

Further details will be sought in time for the next issue of *The Shekel*.

AINA'S NINTH STUDY TOUR

by Andrew Rosenblum



Part II

EILAT AND THE SINAI

We're off to Eilat on an Arkia (Israel's inland airlines) flight, our second flight in three days. Being sky-high on the jumbo jet was one thing but this flight is more immediate. It offers little chance to forget that we're flying. This propellered plane rattles and we are close enough to the ground to see the contours of the mountains and more excitingly, the Kibbutz settlements which speckle the Negev. Those who left behind them the fear of flying reassure themselves now that they are flying with AINA: the American Israel Numismatic *Aeronauts*.

Arriving at Eilat, we first pass over the city and then make our landing from the gulf. The mountains that surround Eilat make it almost impossible to come in from the north.

We can see the Jordanian city of Aquaba. It's hard to know at first *which* city is *which*. These port cities are separated only by the gulf and a small strip of desert. No wall or barbed wire divides them but there might as well be both for all the contact they have with each other. On all of Israel's borders this same chronic tragedy of division and isolation is played out. Our guide through Eilat sadly told us that she could not go to Aquaba, a city she wanted to visit. It would have been exciting, there was the attraction of another country there and there were *casinos* (there is no gambling in Israel). But politics had made her the *enemy*—to them, she was hostile and dangerous. But all she wanted was a good time.



The contrast between the immediate and simple pleasures of life as opposed to the complex absurdities and tragedies of war is everywhere visible in Israel. It's to be seen (for those who care to look) in the No Man's Land division of borders, the remnants of rusting barbed wire in Jerusalem, and the bomb-shelter nurseries and schools in the border settlements.

We're not given much time to occupy ourselves with these depressing thoughts. Even before we reach our hotel, we're given a tour of Eilat.

On our walk from the plane to the bus we are greeted by a cool dry breeze. We expected to broil here at the top of the Sinai and the bottom of the Negev. But the dry wind from the desert has been cooled by the gulf. No one perspires much and, thankfully, no one complains.

We visit two craft industries of Eilat. We see where the copper colored clay is

thrown and cast. And we are lectured by a Hungarian with a deeply-creased face on the virtues of the Eilat stone. We are told that the copper mines of Timna was one of Eilat's biggest industries. Now they are closed.

So where are the workers? What do they do? Eilat is an isolated port city and since the re-opening of the Suez Canal, the ports of Ashdod and Haifa have grown at Eilat's expense. There are few industries here. Tourism is probably the biggest. But there can only be so many hotels, waiters, and shops. So how do the people make their livelihoods? Eilat wants to grow but how can it grow if its industries decrease? The Hungarian gives no answers. He says things are hard and there are problems. Unlike the dinner speakers we have heard, and will hear, he offers little hope and no solution. What keeps him going is the need to make do. Somehow he manages, though with each inflation and the continuing devaluation of the Lira, he makes less.

This economic crisis is a deepening situation. The Lira today is worth *half* of what it was three years ago. Small wonder then that the 1974 Ben Gurion Gold coin has dropped from \$500 to \$250. Every two months there is a 2% devaluation. Income taxes are incredibly high—hovering around 60%. Prices are also high. Cars, for example, and these are small cars—Audis, Volkswagens, Fiats,—cost about \$10,000.

There is a paradox here as there is with just about everything in Israel. Cars are abundant and people seem to be well off. Everyone is buying and so just about everybody is in debt. Since the inflation and devaluation far exceed interest from a savings bank, Israelis see saving money as losing money. What isn't spent is put into other things: diamonds, American dollars, stock and coins.

The coin market in Israel has a great deal more activity than in the States. Here there are few collectors or investors—few can afford this luxury—but there is an army of vest pocket and bank vault speculators. The 1976 American Lamp set (*one B.U., one mint*) whose issue price six months ago was less than \$30 was close to \$100 during our tour.





Our next day is another day of traveling. We fly deep into the Sinai, landing about an hour's distance from Santa Katarina Monastery. We travel by bus over a rough road. On this ride we get a good view and feel of the Sinai. This desert is more of a desert of rock than of sand. There are small jutting mountains everywhere. Occasionally against the right angle of a rising rockface we spot the dark tents of the Bedouins.

There is a story that the Bedouin tribes in this area were once a clan of Romanian Gypsies. However, startling and unbelievable as this story is, so is the sudden sight of the Monastery and the small oasis surrounding it. So much of this area was barren, pale with dry and lifeless things, the Monastery and this oasis can only be reckoned a wonder in contrast.

But once inside, with the desert behind us, the Monastery becomes less startling. Something else begins to interest us, something which will become a "sight" for us all throughout Israel. Tourists. Everywhere in Israel there are tourists. We see them in Mosques, Synagogues, Churches, Museums, Hotels, Restaurants, Streets, Oceans—everywhere. Here at Santa Katarina, there are more tourists than monks and lay brothers. Who knows, we may even outnumber all the Bedouins of the Sinai.

In this tiny spot, within the space of a few minutes, we hear several languages: Greek, French, English, Arabic, Hebrew. In our two weeks in Israel we will hear almost all the language of Europe and a few Oriental ones as well. As a result of the Diaspora, Jews may have had to learn more languages than anyone else. Now there is an ironic twist. The success of tourism in Israel brings together all the languages which the Jews of the Diaspora once spoke.

After our visit to the Monastery, we take another plane ride: To Ophira. Here we are at Sharem El Sheikh and the Straits of Tiran, another of Israel's many vital security spots.

Ophira is a beautiful spot, considered by many Israelis the most beautiful place to visit. The paleness of the Sinai gives a delicacy to the landscape. The mountains are in a variety of pastel colors. The water is lightly tinted with a greenish-blue. There is quiet here too. Everything is muted and subdued. For Israelis whose lives are so often belabored with the stresses of politics, economy, and urban hustle, this quiet must be especially appealing.

Our third plane ride of the day: The ride back to Eilat. Tomorrow we will take another to Lod Airport, midway between Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem. From there we will travel north by bus to Haifa. *To be continued.*

MONEY OF THE 'FINAL SOLUTION'

By Franz Frankl

On September 23, 1939, a few weeks after the attack on Poland, the German authorities issued the "Reich's Credit Treasury Notes (RKK) decree" (*Verordnung über Reichskreditkassen*).

It was expressly decreed that the RKK notes should be put in circulation only when the occupied territories did not have sufficient currency of their own. They never had. The RKK notes became the "Official Reichsmark" in all German occupied territories. This issue never had any assets, but in 1939 the "regular" Reichsmark issues had no assets either. It can no longer be ascertained when the RKK notes were printed; all relating documents are lost.¹

On December 20, 1941 it was announced that 20,000 Jews would be transported from the Litzmannstadt Ghetto and "resettled in small towns in the General government". Professor Lucy S.DAWIDOWICZ in her well documented book, "The WAR against the JEWS 1933 - 1945", quotes:

"... their Ghetto papermoney with Rumkowski's picture on the bills, was exchanged for German Reichsmark ..."

Professor Dawidowicz bases this statement on a report in Jewish Labor Bund by J.Nirenberg.² Litzmannstadt was not the only Ghetto where transpor-

tations took place. Ultimately the inmates of ALL the Ghettos in occupied territories and of some Concentration Camps suffered the same fate. Whatever money they had was exchanged into the "Official Reichsmark" ... the RKK notes.

The RKK series, Pick Nos. R 135 - R 140, are among the most beautiful banknotes issued during WW II. It is a small series of six denominations: Pfennig 50 and RM 1-2-5-20-50. The RM 1 through RM 5 notes come with and without embossed stamp. The first three denominations have no pictures. The RM 5 notes have on the Face the head of a laborer at right and at left.

The RM 20 notes are adorned on the Face with the famous picture "The Architect" by Albrecht Dürer; the "Brandenburg Gate" (a Berlin landmark) is on the Back. The RM 50 notes have on the Face the picture of a fisherwoman from the "Kurische Nehrung" (near Memel), while the Back shows the castle from 1309 - 1457 was the seat of the Grandmasters of the "Knights of the Teutonic Order". Later on, until 1772 it was the residence of the Polish Woiwods.

The RKK issues were invalidated in January 1945. From May 8, 1945 till



**"Official Reichmark" of the Occupied Territories
Was Issued in RM 1-2-5-20 and 50**

May 4, 1946, the three highest denominations were authorized as emergency money in the British Zone of Occupation. A stamp by a Reichsbank office within the zone had to be put on.

The collectors of Jewish Syngraphics are slowly starting to collect the series. The RM 2 notes, like all other issues of

deuces, are already Rare in UNC and the RM 50 notes are even Rare in XF. And supplies are tightening.

(1) Dr. Alfred Pick, Munich, letters of February 14, 1977 and March 1, 1977.
(2) "IN DI YORN FUN YIDISHN KHURBN", pages 253 - 257.

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THE PALESTINE MANDATE 'ROUGH' PLANCHET

by Gilbert Ross, AINA #3201

It is this writer's opinion that the Mandate monies are very much a part of the Jewish People's destiny in the land of our Forefathers. My reason for stating this fact is that for the first time in eighteen centuries, coins and currency were minted and printed with Hebrew inscriptions upon them, and circulated in the Holy Land.

Some five years ago, when Palestine Mandate coins were still considered "junk" coins by many dealers, I began a systematic collection of these coins not in singles but by the bunch. It was my belief that though the British had dealt with the Jews in Palestine with more faithlessness than faith, Great Britain's Mandate was used by the Jews of the Yishuv as a tool to regain our ancient Homeland.

In 1927, the first year of mintage, when over twenty-six million coins were minted in copper, bronze and cupro-nickel, there were no rough planchets. Since I possess some four thousand such coins, in multiple dates and conditions ranging from Good to Brilliant Uncirculated, I have yet to see the first coin dated 1927 in a rough planchet.

For the benefit of those readers of *The Shekel* who have been mystified by the condition of certain coins of this specie which appear uncirculated, yet pitted in the field, and whose legends appear scrawny and thin by other coinage of the same date, the problem originated with London's Royal Mint, where the coins were made.

During the Great Depression of the '30's, when relations between management and labor soured in all developed countries, the coal miners of Britain suffered the worst, just as they did in this country. Wherever coal was mined in Britain, strikes were rampant. When scabs were brought in to mine the coal, the miners swept up to the gated entrances with bricks and bats, only to be fired upon by the police and troops.

I am woefully inadequate in the science of metallurgy, therefore, I wisely leave this problem to those scientists knowledgeable in the degree of heat required to melt all metals. Most numismatists, however, are aware that gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc require much less heat to melt these metals than nickel, the hardest and toughest of all numismatic metals.



Normal Planchet,
- 1927

'Rough' Planchet
1935



Normal 1927 One-Mil

The two mil coins possess the least rough planchets. None were minted in the troubled 1930's. Three dates are shown for the one mil; however, an equal number for the five mil, wherein nickel, the most troublesome metal was used. Five dates of the ten mil were coined. Of the twenty mil, there are three dates of the period.

In the '40's, there was once again trouble at the mines, but this time, no fault of Britain's miners who were now earning a living wage. The fault lay in the fact that the greatest siege in modern history was taking place in that luckless land. History calls it The Battle For Britain. During the heaviest bombardments by the Luftwaffe, the coal cars did not arrive on time at the Royal Mint; in quiet desperation, coins that should have been tossed into the discard bin, were allowed to be bagged, boxed and shipped out to Britain's colonial possessions.

The first serious collectors of Mandate coins were those British citizens who had served in the armies of Britain's colonial possessions. Nostalgia, I am certain, drove them to it. And now that inflation is raging, virtually unchecked, throughout the Free World, the children of the collectors, undaunted by nostalgia, are selling them off for their material needs.

One of the better-known authorities on Palestine Mandates, Sylvia Haffner, told us in her book back in 1973 that

pursuing these coins in their finer grades would prove to be the greatest of challenges. I would like to add that the challenge is the name of the game in all coin collecting. It took Morty Zerder more than five years to put together a 59-coin set years ago.

As my rough planchet coins have grown in number through the last five years, an idea has been growing in my mind with it, having to do with mint errors. Who among us, as coin collectors, has not encountered a coin blank, a clipped planchet, a doubled die strike, a broken planchet or a piece of metal from the machine embedded in a coin? It matters little under what trying conditions a rough planchet was coined and permitted out of the mint. The fact is that it was. It is now in the possession of someone who purchased it in good faith, without questioning its condition.

Though rough planchets are not rare, neither are they plentiful. I believe I have one for every sixty normal coins, approximating one rough planchet for every set I have. I would like to see this coin, at long last, take its rightful place where I believe it belongs: Among the world's coin errors. For then, it would not be shunted aside in hasty disgust, as parents once hid physically-handicapped children, but with pride at this uniquely-British mint error: A coin that should never have left the mint, but did.

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“LOAN WITHOUT INTEREST” ... A LOTTERY!



Actual size photograph of lottery ticket by a yet-to-be-identified group selling lottery tickets in 1941.

by FRANZ FRANKL

There is no end to the multitude of Judaic syngraphic tokens, some of them issued by institutions no longer remembered.

The AGUDAT BETH LEHEM, Jerusalem, with approval of the Mandate Government, in 1940 and 1941 sold tickets for a lottery. Sale of private lottery tickets was not permitted under the Mandatory Regime; Beth Lehem circumvented this by calling it a "distribution of loans for 35 years without interest". The complete schedule of this distribution is listed in detail on the back of the ticket.

The ticket (132x117mms) is printed in blue on fawn paper, perforated in the middle; the left side in English, the right side in Hebrew. Each of these parts represents half a ticket. Almost illegible in the photo: *Agudat Beth Lehem, Jerusalem*, printed (Hebrew) in yellow in the center of the ticket; these 3 lines are arranged in the form of a Menorah. The upper part of the ticket is the counterfoil with *Number* and *Series*, which is repeated on the ticket.

In 1940 and 1941, the rate of exchange was £P 1, equal to US \$5. The price of the ticket was 20 Mils (10c); the half ticket 10 Mils (5c); the "Loans" come

**"BETH LEHEM" Assoc
JERUSALEM**

Ben Yehuda st. House Halbrich
General Agent KURT HAAS
HAIFA, P. O. B. 2112

**אגודת "בית לחם"
ירושלים**

רח' בנייהודא, בית הלברייך
סוכו ראשי: קורס האס
2112 ת.ד. ח'פ.ה.

The members of the Association are entitled to participate in the distribution of the loans which will take place on **27th May 1941** at 3 p.m. at Haifa Herzl str. 40, office Mr. Kurt Haas, net profit to assist the Free Kitchen for hungry to local and refugee.

לחברי האגודה הזכות להשתתף בחלוקת ההלוואות שתתקיים ביום **27 למאי 1941** בשעה 3 אחה"צ בחיפה רחוב הרצל 40, במשרד קורס האס. ההכנסה הנקיה לעזרת מטבח חנם לרעבים תושבים ופליטים.

LOANS DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE

חכנית חלוקת ההלוואות

	L.P.	ל"פ.		L.P.	ל"פ.
1 X	30	=	30		
1 X	5	=	5.—		
1 X	2.000	=	2.—		
1 X	1.000	=	1.—		
2 X	0.500	=	1.—		
5 X	0.200	=	1.—		
25 X	0.100	=	2.500		
50 X	0.050	=	2.500		

1000 כרטיסים להשתתפות בחלוקת ההלוואות הבאה

1000 Tickets for participation at the next distribution

Serie III.

Issued 20000 Tickets

סריה III.

הוצאו 20000 כרטיס

"Distribution Schedule" as listed on reverse of lottery ticket.

to a total of £P 45 plus 1000 tickets for the next distribution. Twenty thousand tickets were issued per Series.

During 1940-1941, I lived in Palestine and I never heard either of Beth Lehem Association or its lottery. I asked some other collectors still living in Israel, such as David Atsmony (one of the earliest collectors of syngraphic tokens). He had never heard of them either. Atsmony in turn asked some old timers; nobody knew of the group.

The illustrated ticket is of *Series III*, drawing May 27, 1941, and was not

issued. There ought to be a few booklets of unissued tickets around. But WHO was *Agudat Beth Lehem*? As one can read in the photo, there is some urgency in asking for transmittal of the money from the sale of the tickets. This, the name of the issuer and the small amounts involved lead to the conclusion that *Agudat Beth Lehem* was a religious organization.

If any one has additional information, please contact me.

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The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. My early bronzes of the prutot series and my early silver pieces have picked up a dull patina. How may I bring them back to their original color? F.J., Springfield, Mass.

A. First, contrary to dealer's lists and auction catalogs, there is no such thing as "a beautiful blue patina" on a silver coin. Patina is the result of external influences on copper or copper alloyed metals such as bronze and tombac. It sounds nicer to say that a silver coin has a patina than to say that it is tarnished. In either case the silver became tarnished because the metal was exposed to some form of sulphur in the air (hydrogen sulfide), paper, wood, leather or just plain sweaty fingers. Bronzes and coppers do of course tarnish from external influences however a true patina takes, in my opinion, not less than 30 years in these latitudes. As far as cleaning, the most abrasive item that I use is a mild soap in warm water with my thumb and index finger as the only other ingredients. Some collectors are getting good results with some chemical dips. I never used them so I cannot recommend any of them.

Q. In 1973 for her 25th Anniversary, Israel issued a platinum medal. Was platinum ever used in the minting of coins? E.T., Irving, Texas.

A. Platinum was used by Russia from 1828 to 1845 to strike various issues of 3, 6, and 12 roubles. The outcry from the gold-based countries viz. the U.S. and England was quick and vociferous. How dare a country like Russia try to force a base (sic) metal selling for \$7.50 a

pound on the world? In the U.S., platinum was used by the counterfeiters of gold coins. In San Francisco at the mint, a pair of quarter eagle dies were stolen and platinum coins were struck from the dies. These coins were then gold plated and easily passed. They were heavier than the gold pieces and if bounced on a stone surface, rang like a bell. West Coast Chinese artisans were expert at drilling gold out of the twenty dollar gold pieces and filling the holes with platinum wire. These altered coins would weigh out and also ring true. The edges of course would be finished with gold and the milling made to match. In an analysis of the now obsolete Russian platinum coinage in the March 1878 issue of *The Coin Collector's Journal*, it was stated:

The lesson of this experiment is, that whatever may be the intrinsic excellence or value of a particular metal, unless it be employed by a number of nations for coin purposes, coins issued in it have no circulation, and are of no value in the exchanges of the world. Such coins come, therefore, to circulate only within the territories of the country issuing them, and are really even there only national tokens or counters. In colonial times wampum might circulate as currency in New England, but having no value in Europe, a metallic currency was soon adopted. So no nation, not even Russia, could force the other European countries to take coins of platinum. These countries wanted coins of gold with which they might pay for goods purchased from American and Asiatic merchants, who knew nothing of platinum—a metal not convertible, as is gold, into a great variety of objects, and possessed, therefore, of a more restricted intrinsic value. For this, among other reasons, platinum has disappeared from the list of coin metals, and nations have learned that gold being the standard medium of exchange all over the world, no less valuable metal can now take its place. Those that may try the experiment will have to pay smartly for the wisdom they will learn.



PLATINUM SIX ROUBLE PIECE.

AVNI, BRAM VISIT WITH INS OF TAMPA



Left to right: Y. Avni, Director-General of the IGCAM; Robert Scott, INS of Tampa; and Morris Bram.



Left to right: Morris Bram, president, AINA and Cantor William Hauben, INS of Tampa.

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June 13-June 18

City of Lauderdale Lakes office of the Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the AMERICAN ISRAELI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION has selected the City of Lauderdale Lakes as the locale for their monthly meetings; and

WHEREAS, the AMERICAN ISRAELI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is now celebrating its 10th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, the AMERICAN ISRAELI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION is a welcome and worthy addition to the cultural life between the Jewish Community of Broward County and the Jewish Community and the State of Israel; and

WHEREAS, the AMERICAN ISRAELI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION has brought to our community such distinguished persons as Richard Stone, who has honored the efforts of officials by a presentation of beautiful and valuable coins and medals, from the State of Israel;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Howard Craft, Mayor of the City of Lauderdale Lakes, do hereby proclaim the week of June 13th through June 18th, 1977, to be

AMERICAN ISRAELI NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION WEEK

in the City of Lauderdale Lakes and urge all citizens to take note of this organization's interests and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Lauderdale Lakes to be affixed this 13th day of June, 1977.



Howard Craft
CITY MAYOR
Gladys Schwartz
CITY CLERK
Oscar Shaffer
CITY CLERK



The Israel Numismatic Society of Broward County received a certificate from Lauderdale Lakes in recognition of the coin collection and study work of the society. June 13th to June 18th was hailed as "Numismatic Week" in the city. From left, Morris Bram; Rose Kantor, President; Gladys Schwartz, corres. Sec'y; and Oscar Shaffer, Sec'y-Treasurer.

It is the second time in the history of his Mayor Howard Craft that a special week was honored in the community. The Mayor visited the INS to make the presentation.

COINS OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

by David Hendin



A RARE PORTRAIT OF AGRIPPA I

Among the rarest of all the ancient Jewish coins are those which carry actual portraits of the Jewish kings.

The reason for this, of course, is the commandment specifically prohibiting graven images. It was explicitly followed by the Maccabean kings, who maintained their fierce nationalism and independence through the last days of the reign of Antigonus Mattathias.

The descendants of Herod the Great, however, were much less loyal to the Jewish people and their traditions. The Herodians, indeed, were mainly vassal kings, almost completely subservient to Rome.

Ironically, the most nationalistic of the Herodian kings—Agrippa I (37-44 C.E.)—was one of the first Jewish rulers to order his own likeness struck upon coins of the realm. He also ordered coins struck with portraits of the Roman emperors, but all these coins with graven images were apparently meant to circulate outside of areas with heavy Jewish population in his kingdom.

Recently we were fortunate enough to obtain one of the extremely rare portrait coins of Agrippa I, and the portrait is quite a strong one. This gives us a good idea of the appearance of this Jewish king of long ago.

Agrippa, also known as Herod Agrippa I, was the grandson of Herod the Great and Mariamme the Hasmonean. Thus he was scion of the two great Jewish royal houses of his day—the Hasmoneans and the Herodians.

The young Agrippa was educated in Rome, as were many young men of the royal families of Roman allies. (You will recall that Herod the Great maintained excellent relations with Rome.)



Portrait on coin of Agrippa I

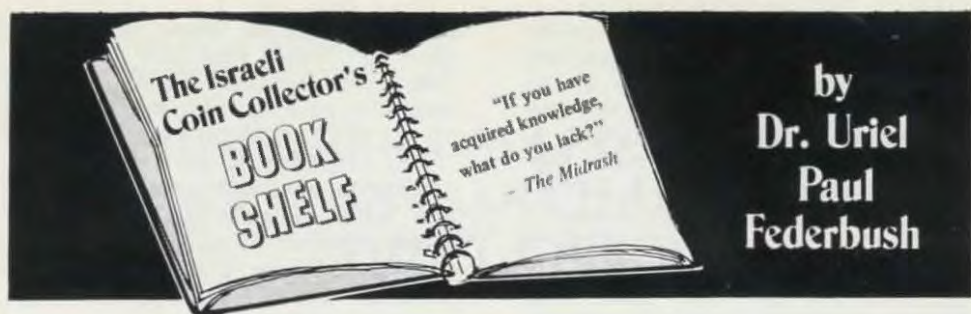
During his youth Agrippa became friendly with both Gaius (later the emperor Caligula) and Claudius. Once, in fact, the Emperor Tiberius heard a rumor (probably true) that Agrippa had wished him dead in order that his good friend Gaius could become "lord of the world." This line of thought—even if only tossed off unthinkingly in conversation—became treason once it reached the Emperor's ears, and Tiberius ordered Agrippa imprisoned.

Upon Tiberius's death, however, Caligula released Agrippa and named him tetrarch over the former domain of Herod Philip II, his uncle. Two years later Antipas, nagged on by his wife, also went to Caligula and asked for more power. But Caligula became annoyed at this and instead banished Antipas to Spain, naming Agrippa over his territories as well.

Caligula was a madman, and at one time during his reign proclaimed himself to be god. With this he ordered his troops to erect a statue of himself within the Temple of Jerusalem.

In spite of his many years in Rome, Agrippa remained intensely loyal to his people and his nation. At great risk to his own position—and life—he cleverly, but strongly, appealed to Caligula to rescind his order and to respect the integrity of Judaism's one-God concept. Albeit reluctantly, Caligula agreed.

(Continued on page 28)



This review will encompass some books which are possibly not as well known as the more standard works collectors on occasion refer to at various times. Nevertheless they are interesting, and each in its way illuminates areas of interest.

Israel's History In Coins by A. Reifenberg (London: East And West Library, 1953). Hard Cover. 46 p.

This small book should not be confused with Reifenberg's standard on ancient Jewish coinage. Part of a series, the book was designed to meet the layman's resurgent interest in ancient manifestations of Israel's nationhood. This was stimulated by the emergence of modern Israel.

This monograph covers the period from the Maccabees to the Roman conquest. There is an interesting foreword regarding the general subject of ancient Jewish coins and their place in history. This is followed by chapters on *The Maccabbean Dynasty*; *The Herodian Dynasty*; *The Procurators*; *The First Jewish War*; *Judaea Capta*; and *The Second Jewish War*. It is a fascinating summary in which the broad sweep of Jewish History is related to the coinage of the periods.

The enlarged illustrations are excellent. A short chronology at the end is useful in dating important occurrences. The book is generally beautifully designed and printed.

The National Maritime Museum Haifa Spring 1972 compiled by A. Ben-Eli and R. Stieglitz. Soft Cover. 68 p.

This book highlights exhibits in the different departments of the museum.

The introduction points out that the Middle East was the "cradle of shipping in the Western World." Furthermore it shows that biblical references and ancient coins identify shipping as a widespread feature of Jewish life. Therefore this museum was founded at Israel's leading port.

Every aspect of the exhibits are directly related to ancient coinage. For example, the chapter *The Sea and its Deities* is mainly illustrated by ancient coins directly relating to it. A chapter on numismatics spans the period from 277 B.C.E. to 1805 C.E.

The illustrations of ancient ship models and undersea archeology are magnificent. The sections on Maps; Art; and The Bible; have fascinating examples depicting the Holy Land.

Ships And Parts Of Ships On Ancient Coins edited by Arie L. Ben-Eli (Haifa: The National Maritime Museum Foundation, 1975). Hard Cover. 80 p.

This book, limited to coins relating to ships, would seem a natural outgrowth of the catalogue discussed above. The Catalogue of Coins and Introduction are by Yaacov Meshorer, a name familiar to us all. The book was published on the occasion of the Museum's twenty-fifth anniversary. It is presently available from AINA for \$15.00.

The entire volume is printed bilingually with half-page columns of Hebrew and English facing each other. The importance of coins to maritime history is stated, with some of the coins serving as examples for the construction of ancient ship models.

Of most immediate interest to our readers is the section *Maritime History*

on *Jewish Coins*, by Stieglitz. He points to the importance of Hasmonean and Herodian coins to the history of the Second Temple period. He shows how the policy of the Maccabees was to expand to the Mediterranean coast, taking Joppa (Jaffa) in 142 B.C.E. Alexander Jannaeus completed the conquest of the coasts, being dominant from Rinocolura (El-Arish) in the south, to the Carmel in the north. Later King Herod built the port of Caesarea. Stieglitz also states that the *Victoria Navalis* coins of Vespasian, Titus, and Domitian

commemorated the battle in 67 C.E. when the Jewish fleet was destroyed. This is later disputed by Meshorer when describing coin No. 19 in the catalogue.

The catalogue is extensively illustrated with coins with maritime motifs. The initial periods covered are *The Roman Republic*; *The Roman Empire*; and *Seleucid Syria*. Then there is a comprehensive list of ancient Jewish coins, including all those with maritime motifs which include anchors, galleys, and others.

Coins of Ancient Israel (Cont'd)

Upon Caligula's death, Agrippa, still in Rome, played a major role in the palace intrigue that brought Caligula's uncle Claudius to the throne in 41 C.E. In appreciation Claudius bestowed upon Agrippa the entire kingdom of his forebears, thus making him the first and only true heir to Herod the Great.

Agrippa was honored and respected by the Jews. His initial unquestioning loyalty to Rome eventually was pushed aside even more by his deep religious and nationalistic feelings. Soon after being named King by Claudius he returned to Jerusalem and set about surrounding Jerusalem "with fortifications so huge that had they been finished they would have made it futile for the Romans to attempt a siege."

But before the wall was finished, Agrippa I died in Caesarea in 44 C.E. at age 54. Upon his death Claudius again brought the Jewish kingdom under the direct rule of Rome, via procurators.

Agrippa's son, Agrippa II, eventually became ruler of a much smaller area than his father, and was a complete puppet of Rome.

(David Hendin will answer your questions about ancient Jewish coins. Write him in care of The Shekel. Send rubbings or photographs of your coins. DO NOT send the coins themselves.)



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DR. MESHORER CALLED AS "EXPERT WITNESS" IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEFT CASE

Noted Israeli numismatist-archeologist Dr. Ya'akov Meshorer of Jerusalem's Israel Museum was called to testify in one of the Jewish nations most publicized archeological thefts recently, reports Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp. North American Director Nahum Hacohen, New York to *Coin World* in mid-July.

The influential Hebrew-language daily, *Ha'aretz* gave a history of the case in its June 26 issue, noting that a hoard of silver shekels of the First Revolt of the Jews against Rome, 66-70 A.D., had been discovered during excavations along the historic Western Wall near the Dung Gate.

The coins, believed to be about 1,910 years old, turned up during the organized digging, which was under the direction of archeologist Meyer Ben Dov. An Arab bedouin worker, Hakim Al-Farouk, is believed to have come upon an estimated 40 of the historic coins, officially classified as "National Historic Property" under Israel's stringent antiquities laws.

Stolen in January 1976

The theft allegedly took place in January 1976, after which Al-Farouk suddenly quit his excavator's post. Director Ben Dov was informed of the disappearance of the important hoard by a relative of Al-Farouk, with whom the suspect has had a family dispute. At the time of this discovery of the theft, the Arab worker had sold the pieces and was planning to buy an automobile and build a house with the proceeds.

Ben Dov's investigation led him to Israel's coin dealers, several of whom stated that they had been offered shekels of this type, and at least three dealers admitted buying the pieces. Ibrahim Tamiza of the West Bank city of Hebron admitted giving Al-Farouk \$11,225 in U.S. funds for eight of the silver coins.



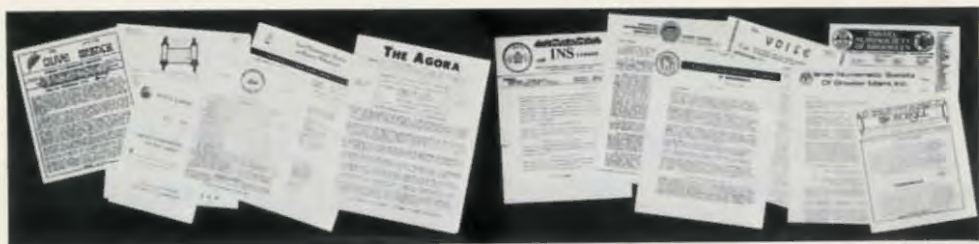
Author, lecturer, research numismatist and archeologist; all these titles define Ya'akov Meshorer, curator of numismatics and archeology at the Israel Museum, adviser to the Israel government on coin hoards and finds in the ancient land of the Bible.

Tamiza said he then sold three of the contraband coins to another dealer, Yoav Sasson. Coin dealer Ayub Karoon stated to police that he purchased six of Al-Farouk's shekels, moving three of them immediately to dealer Sasson.

Basing his action on the police report, the Jerusalem district attorney brought an indictment against Al-Farouk, charging him with the theft of the shekel hoard. After his arrest, the Arab laborer denied the allegations, explaining the large amounts of cash found during a police search of his residence as his savings combined with proceeds of a sheep and goat herd sale and revenue from goat cheese sales recently completed.

Denying he knew coin dealer Tamiza, Al-Farouk told the court he quit his job on the Dung Gate excavations "because of aches in his legs," despite the earlier story he had given to the arresting officers that "the work was hard and the pay was inadequate."

Continued on page 32



CLUB NEWS FROM CLUB NEWSLETTERS

QUEENS (N.Y.) INS HEARS OF COINS FROM EXODUS TO FIRST REVOLT

The final meeting of the Spring season for the INS of Queens (N.Y.) heard Dr. Harry Newman speak on *The Numismatic History of the Jewish People from Egypt to the First revolt.*

The exhibit topic for the evening was *Jerusalem: The City, Its Buildings, People or Objects.* Members were urged to bring coins, medals, paper money and other examples which helped fulfill the objectives of the topic.

The group's May meeting was not held because of a labor dispute at the "Y" where the group ordinarily met.

The INS of Queens reports that the membership is holding at 70.

INS OF WASH. D.C. HOLDS LATE JUNE ASEPAH

Propaganda on Coins and Notes was the theme of the Asepah of the INS of Washington in late June, announced Julius Cohn, Editor of the group's monthly bulletin.

Instead of a speaker, individual members of the Society were asked to bring items and to speak on these, using actual coins, tokens, books, articles and any other aids of pertinent interest to illuminate the discussion.

TRIBES OF ISRAEL SET AS THEME FOR JULY MEETING OF ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF L.A.

A talk on *The Twelve Tribes of Israel* as these relate to the symbols and roots of Israel by Helen Coombs was planned for the July meeting of the Israel Coin

Club of Los Angeles, noted Milton Fishgold, editor of *The Scroll*, monthly newsletter of the group. Mrs. Coombs was described as an avid collector of Exonumia and Life Member #10 of the club. The club learned in the newsletter of the tremendous impression AINA convention exhibits made on Ben Abelson who describes his emotional two-hour study of the eight-case display on the theme of "Herzl" to *Scroll* readers. One of the most moving single items in the display was an actual copy of the book, *The Jewish State*, literally the blueprint for the revived State of Israel, actually autographed by Herzl, he pointed out.

The Los Angeles group planned a "pot luck dinner" for the August meeting, with families to bring their own cooked foods, casseroles, salads and/or desserts for the festive summertime occasion.

BROOKLYN GROUP HEARS TRANSPORTATION TOKEN COLLECTOR

Alan Weinberg, an enthusiastic collector of all numismatic items relating to the history of Israel's railroads was the planned speaker for the late June meeting of the INS of Brooklyn. Mr. Weinberg has shown many of his individual items in recent articles in *The Shekel*.

The group meets in the Flatbush Jewish Center and has scheduled meetings for July and August, noted Al Yatkowitz, president, and Norma Tasman, secretary, in their bulletin to club members.

FAMED DEALER SPEAKS AT SAN GABRIEL (Calif.) MEETING

Members and friends of the INS of San Gabriel Valley of California heard the popular expert on Israel's numismatics, J.J. Van Grover of New York speak on his favorite after-dinner theme (which he claims is also his pre-breakfast pronouncement to all who will listen) "Invest in Israel's Numismatics".

The Olive Branch, monthly newsletter of the group recently had a detailed report by Jerry Yahalom, General Chairman of the recently concluded Holy Land Expo. His report paid tribute to the individuals who contributed solidly to the success of the event. The educational forum was a "standing room only" affair with special tributes to the affair's Honorary Chairman, Morris Bram, who brought greetings from all of AINA to the California three-club event.

The winner of the Gold Coin which was the prize for the winning ticket of the drawing held at the Expo had purchased his ticket while aboard the El Al airplane returning to the U.S. from AINA's Ninth Annual Study Tour, reported *The Olive Branch*.

Newsletters from various INS clubs are brought to the group's monthly meetings so that interested members may see what other INS clubs are doing.

LATE SPRING MEETING IN CLEVELAND FEATURES EDUCATIONAL FORUM

An educational forum led by Bob Greene was the main event of the final Spring meeting of the INS of Cleveland in June, reported *The Agora*, monthly newsletter of the organization. Among topics to be covered by the forum were explanations on how to mint coins; how to detect counterfeits; and similar basic information for the novice collector.

Herzl and the Jewish Bank was the theme of the May meeting of the Cleveland group, a program developed from the award-winning exhibit by Stanley Yulish shown at the AINA Convention in May in New York.

The group announced new officers:
PresidentSanford Brown
Vice-Pres.Milton Shapiro
SecretaryLeonard Reuven
TreasurerSam Richman

WINS GROUP KEEPS SUMMER SCHEDULE

The July meeting of WINS (*Westchester Israel Numismatic Society*) featured a film, *Massada*, an AINA slide presentation followed by topics of 1/2 and 1 Lira coins; 1/2 shekel Purim coins; 50 IL paper money; AINA Tour Medals and Jerusalem Marching Medals; and Coins of the First Revolt.

The June meeting was a presentation by Fred Jacobs on the coins of Alexander Jannaeus and a new first for WINS: an auction which proved to be so popular that it will be conducted at every meeting, notes president Albert Schmeidler.

HEBREW COLLEGE PREXY SPEAKS AT INS OF MASS. MEETING

Dr. Eli Grad, president of the Hebrew College and a well known Massachusetts collector was guest speaker at the final meeting of the INS of Massachusetts for the 1976-77 Club Year. Dr. Grad spoke on *Odd and Curious Items of Jewish Numismatics*. It was a repeat visit for the speaker whose audiences have always been enthralled by Grad's wideflung interest and knowledge.

Dave Wernick was scheduled to present questions for the *Numismaquiz*, an educational and fun-filled feature of the meetings of the Massachusetts group.

Elections were planned with these candidates slated for nomination and election with terms to begin in the Fall of 1977.

PresidentJoseph Egel
First Vice-Pres.Bernard Piken
Second Vice-Pres.John Tyler
TreasurerLouis Green
Rec. Sec.Leah Wernick
Corres. Sec.Lottie Tucker
New Issue Mgr.Marshall Schneider
DirectorsMarilyn Shade
Max Fox

INS OF SOUTH JERSEY ELECTS

The following slate of officers have been elected to office starting this Fall at the July meeting of the INS of South Jersey:

PresidentEdward C. Adleman
Vice Pres.Eric J. Baelen
SecretaryLou Ann Tarnow
TreasurerRobin Sue Landsburg
Executive Committee:

David Pollack, Warren Weiner,
Robert Weitz and Edgar Wolf, Jr.

The installation of officers was planned for the August meeting, a special joint meeting with the Garden State Numismatic Association. Door prizes and refreshments were promised for the installation at which Mr. Morris Bram had been asked to perform the honors.

NEW YORKERS HEAR ABOUT ZIONISTS ON COINS/STAMPS

The August meeting of the INS of New York was scheduled to hear Bernie Morgenstern speak on *Zionist Leaders on Coins and Stamps* at the August meeting of the group which meets at the New York Sheraton Hotel. The newsletter of the organization, edited by the club's president, Nathan Sobel, advised that the club will rely on volunteer speakers on a variety of topics for the future meetings.

A presentation at the July meeting heard Ed Baruch speak on *Current Israel Numismarketing Trends*. In a presentation by Moe Weinschel (*Care and Cleaning of Coins*) he advised: "Don't". At least, suggested Moe, practice first on "inexpensive, similar metals". Many of the group learned at first hand of the continuing archaeological dig efforts by member Morty Leventhal, once again back from his exploratory digs in Israel. (Morty is the man who found the Hadrian head which was front-paged in *The New York Times*.)

The highest INS dinner in the world is promised to the members of the INS of Brooklyn and of the INS of New York who planned a joint dinner with entertainment at the 107th floor restaurant atop the World Trade Building shortly.

COIN THEFT (Cont'd)

Al-Farouk's defense attorney claimed that there was no actual proof his client stole the coins from their site of discovery. Even if this were proven, he continued, proof was lacking that the coins in question were legally the property of the archeological expedition.

Dr. Meshorer was called in at this point as an expert witness, through whose hands all such coins should legally pass. Meshorer testified that the recovered coins were genuine silver shekels of the the First Revolt, dated the Year Two of the uprising, 67 A.D.

Their obverse, Meshorer pointed out, bore three pomegranates in transition from blossom to fruit, with the ancient Hebrew legend "Jerusalem the Holy." The reverse of these simply designed silver pieces bears a long-stemmed chalice with nine pearls along its rim, inscription reading "Shekel of Israel, Year Two."

Meshorer testified that most of the known shekels, silver coins struck as an assertion of full Jewish independence and sovereignty against Rome, have been found around Jerusalem. The known hoards reflected the people's tendency to secrete their valuables in times of trouble, a tendency of inestimable value to archeology.

In the aftermath of the failure of the First Revolt, Jews by the tens of thousands were slain, enslaved and otherwise driven from their homes, leaving many such hoards for discovery in Israel's ongoing archeological explorations of the ancient land, especially in the vicinity of Jerusalem, where it seems the very stones are crusted thick with human experience, Meshorer told the court.

The silver shekels are of considerable interest and substantial value to the collectors of today, as well as to museums and numismatic researchers, Meshorer said, citing the present numismatic market values of more than \$1,000 each for shekels in the better conditions.

After a careful review of all evidence in the case, and basing his decisions in part on the inconsistencies in Al-Farouk's testimony, Judge Dr. Jacob Bazan convicted Al-Farouk of the theft of the shekel hoard. Sentencing has been reserved for a later date, *Ha'aretz* reported.

CANADA'S ONLY SHOW EXHIBITOR ONCE AGAIN SCORES AT GNYCC

**ISIDORE BAUM
(1976 Best-of-Show)
WINS KAGAN
TROPHY
WITH FIRST PRIZE
IN ISRAEL CATEGORY
IN 1977 COMPETITION**



Nat Sobel (left) makes award presentation at N.Y. Sheraton Awards Banquet to Isidore Baum, first prize winner: Israel category.



One of the Western Hemisphere's most active and enthusiastic collectors of Israel's numismatics is Isidore Baum, a Canadian who has helped to build the Israel collector movement in Canada while firmly supporting AINA. Mr. Baum was the only entrant in the 1976 Convention Exhibit from Canada and he won the *Best-of-Show*.

In 1977, Mr. Baum returned with a major exhibit once again; and again, as

the sole entry from Canada, won the *First Prize* in the Israel Category, winning the coveted *Kagan Award*.

The story of this amazing and energetic young man was planned for the Tenth Anniversary issue of *The Shekel*; we regret that it never reached print. We are happy to apologize to Mr. Baum for the inadvertent editorial omission and belatedly to compliment and applaud his double victories.

8th (and final) Pidyon HaBen Coins Announced



PIDYON HABEN COIN 1977 — Legal tender issued by the Bank of Israel

The Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation is pleased to announce the issue of the 1977 Pidyon Haben coin.

This issue will be the eighth and last of the **Pidyon Haben series**.

This legal tender IL 25.00, 1977 Pidyon Haben coin is issued in two varieties, Silver Brilliant Uncirculated and Silver Proof.

We are also pleased to offer the 5 coin Pidyon Haben Set, encased in a special de luxe olive-wood box, accompanied by a handsomely decorated certificate, signed by the two Chief Rabbis of Israel. Set of 5 coins available in BU variety only.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COIN

Obverse: Five pomegranate flowers round a five-pointed star; the words in Hebrew: Pidyon Haben Coin and the verse, "Those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem."

Reverse: The nominal value: IL 25. The emblem of the State; the word "Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and Latin characters; the date 1977 and the Hebrew letters for the year 5737.

Proof mintmarked with a small Hebrew letter **mem**, milled edges. BU marked with a small Star of David, smooth edges.

Design: Gabriel Neumann

Reliefs: Sh. Kretzmer and Sons, Jerusalem

Minted: Government Mint, Jerusalem

DETAILS OF THE COIN

Face value: IL 25 / silver 900 /
diameter 37mm / weight 26 g

Cat. no.	Description	Selling Price
31601960	BU, mintmarked with Star of David	\$ 21.00
31701972	Proof, mintmarked with Hebrew (<i>mem</i>)	\$ 42.00
Five piece BU Set, encased in olive-wood box		\$122.00

1977 ISRAEL OFFICIAL MINT SET ANNOUNCED

